

## Letter from the Editor

The face is our window to the world and the oral cavity enables the alimentary canal to receive food and saliva. Any oro-facial anomaly or dysfunction is an immediate concern to the patient and attending dental surgeons. Two Case Reports described the heartening works of local dentists in the maxilla-facial prosthodontic treatment of a large maxillary defect after cancer treatment and a young patient's auricular defect.

The Ministry of Health has set up a Fluoride Review Committee to review the fluoridation of drinking water in Singapore. An earlier study of about 1,800 Singaporean pre-schoolers had revealed less successful caries control in the pre-schoolers. About 40% of the pre-schoolers had caries. The children of the lower socio-economic group appeared to carry the major burden of the disease. The Review Article on Fluoride use and dental caries control in Singapore discussed the various possible approaches to address this inequality of dental caries.

*SDJ* readers will also find a richly detailed and engrossing report of the Singapore Armed Force Dental Project Team's mission to Afghanistan. In a land that knows little dentistry, the team set up the first modern dental clinic in the Bamiyan Province of Afghanistan. Besides delivering dental care to the local populations, they also trained the Afghan dental team to later take over the clinic. The DPT was deployed to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) camp located south of the main town of Bamiyan. The multiple casualties suffered by NZDF last year from a roadside bomb showed that the mission was not completely without risks.

The front cover features the wire sculpture of the partially blind Singaporean sculptor, Victor Tan Wee Tar. The medium of stainless steel wire, used for figuration, was innovated by Victor Tan in the mid-90s when he was studying in the LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts. Hope you will enjoy this issue of the *SDJ*.

**Dr. Peng Hui Tan**  
Editor-in-Chief